

**Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 – Expedited Procedure**

Serial No.: 09/741,632

Examiner: Jerry B. Dennison

**Amendment to the Claims**

1-15. (Canceled) Please cancel claims 1 through 15.

16. (Original) A method of transparently transporting frame information across a network, comprising:

receiving a first STS-3 telecommunications signal carrying three STS-1 telecommunications signals, the three STS-1 telecommunications signals each including header and payload information byte interleaved into a first frame structure for the first STS-3 telecommunications signal, the first frame structure having a header portion with byte interleaved header information of the three STS-1 telecommunications signals, the first frame structure having a payload portion with byte interleaved header information of the three STS-1 telecommunications signals, the payload portion of the first frame structure including fixed stuff byte locations, the payload portion of the first frame structure including path overhead locations;

placing the payload portion of the first frame structure into payload locations of a second frame structure for a second STS-3 telecommunications signal, the path overhead locations of the payload portion of the first frame structure being placed into path overhead locations of the second frame structure;

placing the header portion of the first frame structure into payload locations of the second frame structure, the header portion of the first frame structure being placed into fixed stuff bytes of the second frame structure.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein path overhead locations of the second frame structure includes path overhead for the second STS-3 telecommunications signal, path overhead for the first STS-3 telecommunications signal, and overhead bytes from the header portion of the first frame structure.

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18. (Original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising:

discarding overhead bytes of the header portion of the first frame structure that are redundant between the three STS-1 telecommunications signals and that are identical with overhead bytes for the second STS-3 telecommunications signal.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein the fixed stuff byte locations are in columns 30 and 59 of the second frame structure.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 16, further comprising:

concatenating path overhead for the three STS-1 telecommunications signals into a single path overhead representing all three STS-1 telecommunications signals.

21.(New) A method for mapping bytes from a first frame with a first frame structure from a first network into a second frame with the same first frame structure in a second network, comprising:

receiving a frame from the first network with a first frame structure having a payload portion and overhead portion, wherein the overhead portion includes a path, line and section overhead portions;

mapping bytes from the payload portion of the first frame into payload portions of the second frame;

mapping path overhead of the first frame into path overhead portions of the second frame; and

mapping line overhead and section overhead of the first frame into remaining unused bytes of the path overhead of the second frame and into designated fixed stuff byte columns of the second frame.

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22.(New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:  
discarding overhead bytes in the first frame that are redundant or unused .

23.(New) The method of claim 22, wherein the first frame structure is an STS-3 frame  
structure.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the first frame structure is an STS-3  
concatenated frame structure.

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